This work is full of nature.
I'd be delighted if you would
give it a read.

—Xia Da

Xia DaStory in China, Dance Province, Huaihua. She debuted during high-school with "Growing Up".
She has many works, such as "Neon Type", "Sanxian", and "Fuuny Pavillion".
She received the 2006 China Golden Dragon Zuan for Best Work.

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A young girl named Yua moves to a mountain village shrouded in an air of mystery, where nature and ancient culture blends together due to her parents' work. There, she encounters many weird and wonderful things and meets a multitude of supernatural beings. Yua possesses a curious power that allows her to mingle with the parallel world that exists with our everyday—she is a Whisperer.

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夏達（シャア）
監修 SUMMER

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No One Knows

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Xia Da

Shueisha & SUMMER

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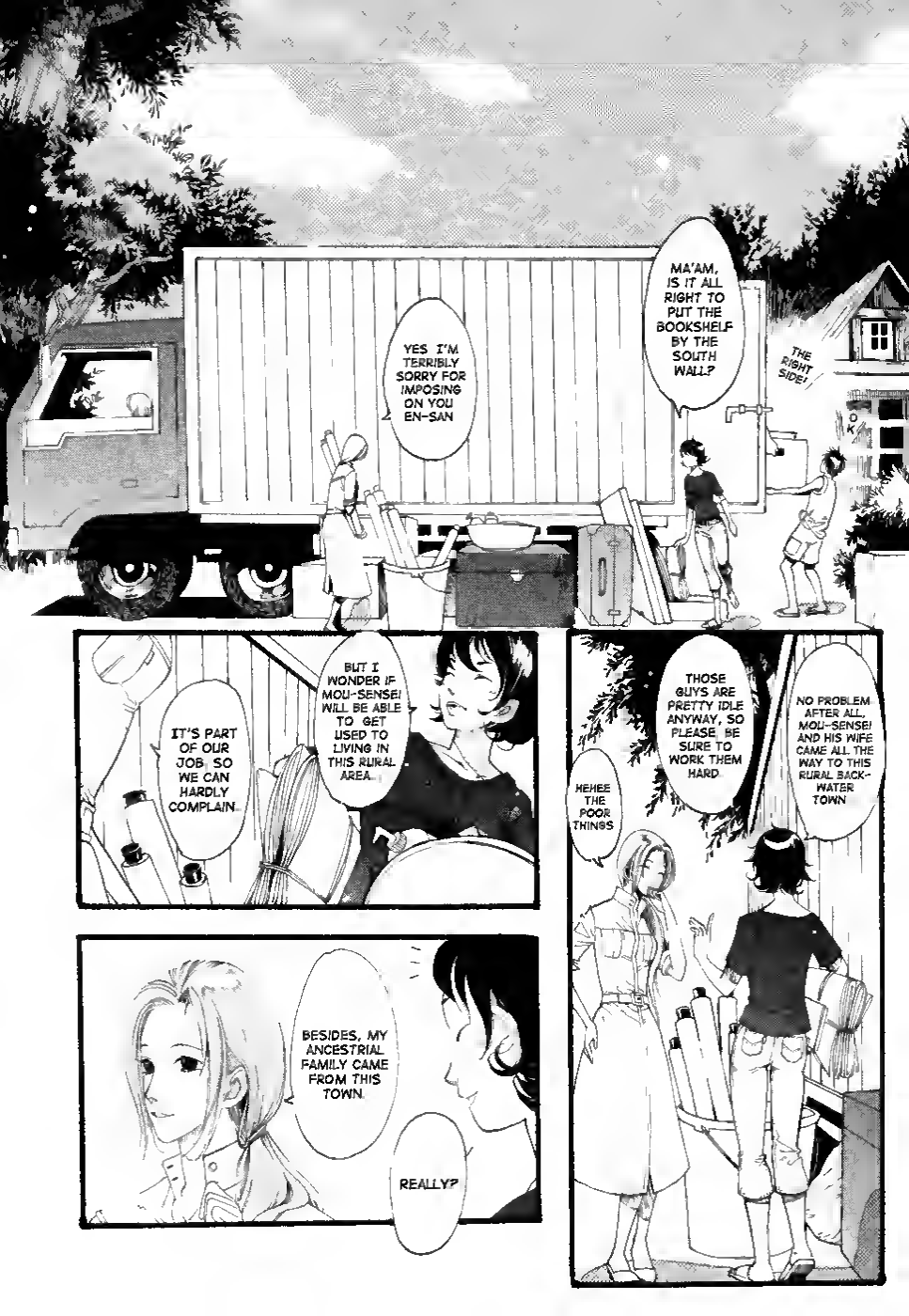
Contents

# 6	# 5	# 4	# 3	# 2	# 1
AMBER	MIGRANT BIRDS	OLD CARPENTER	SHADOW	LOTUS BLOSSOM	COCOON
155	131	91	61	31	3

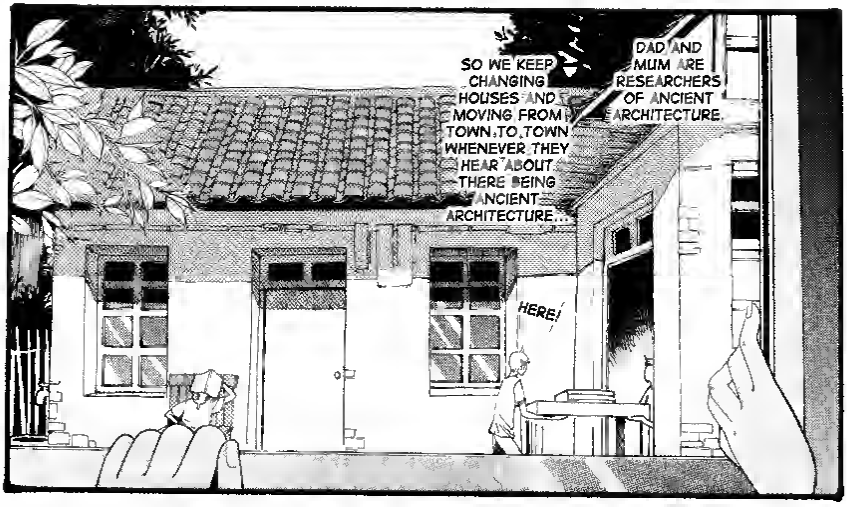
#1
Cocoon
UNCLE,
DO WE STILL HAVE LONG TO GO?
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU FEEL CARSICK? HOLD ON A LITTLE LONGER
NGH...
AIN'T IT TOUGH FOR CITY FOLK LIKE YOU TO MOVE TO A TOWN LIKE LINZHI?
EH, IS IT REALLY THAT BAD?
WE'LL GET THERE AFTER CROSSING ANOTHER TWO MOUNTAINS. PROBABLY AN HOUR OR SO
EH?

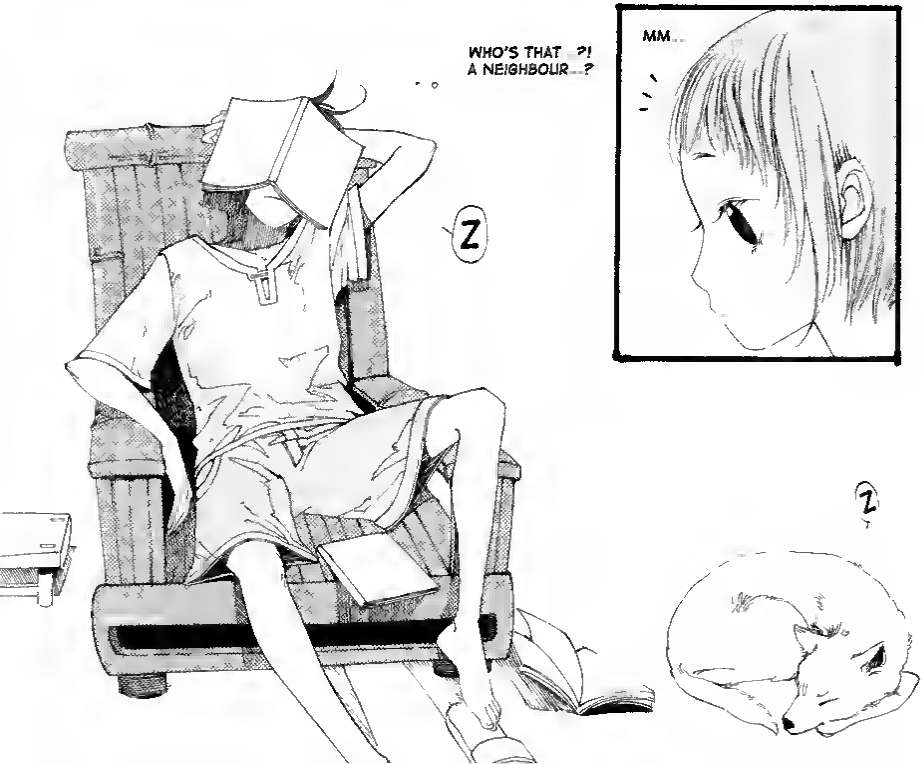
THANKS TO THE SILK-WORMS.
PROS-PEROUS?
THOUGH IT WAS PRETTY PROSPEROUS IN THE PAST.
NO NO. IT'S JUST OUT OF THE WAY, SO YOUNG PEOPLE DON'T REALLY WANT TO LIVE THERE.
BECAUSE THEY BOILED THE COCOONS TO REEL IN THE RAW SILK.
ALL THE STREETS WERE LINED WITH SILK WORKSHOPS, AND THE STEAM COMING FROM THE TOWN... WAS REALLY QUITE SOMETHING.
STEAM?
EH? DON'T THE SILKWORMS GET HOT?

HAHAHA,
I GUESS THEY MUST'VE BEEN... AH, WE CAN SEE THE TOWN NOW
!


YES I'M TERRIBLY SORRY FOR IMPOSING ON YOU EN-SAN
MA'AM, IS IT ALL RIGHT TO PUT THE BOOKSHELF BY THE SOUTH WALL?
THE RIGHT SIDE!
OK
BUT I WONDER IF MOU-SENSEI WILL BE ABLE TO GET USED TO LIVING IN THIS RURAL AREA
IT'S PART OF OUR JOB SO WE CAN HARDLY COMPLAIN
NO PROBLEM AFTER ALL, MOU-SENSEI AND HIS WIFE CAME ALL THE WAY TO THIS RURAL BACK-WATER TOWN
THOSE GUYS ARE PRETTY IDLE ANYWAY, SO PLEASE BE SURE TO WORK THEM HARD
HEHEE THE POOR THINGS
BESIDES, MY ANCESTRIAL FAMILY CAME FROM THIS TOWN
REALLY?

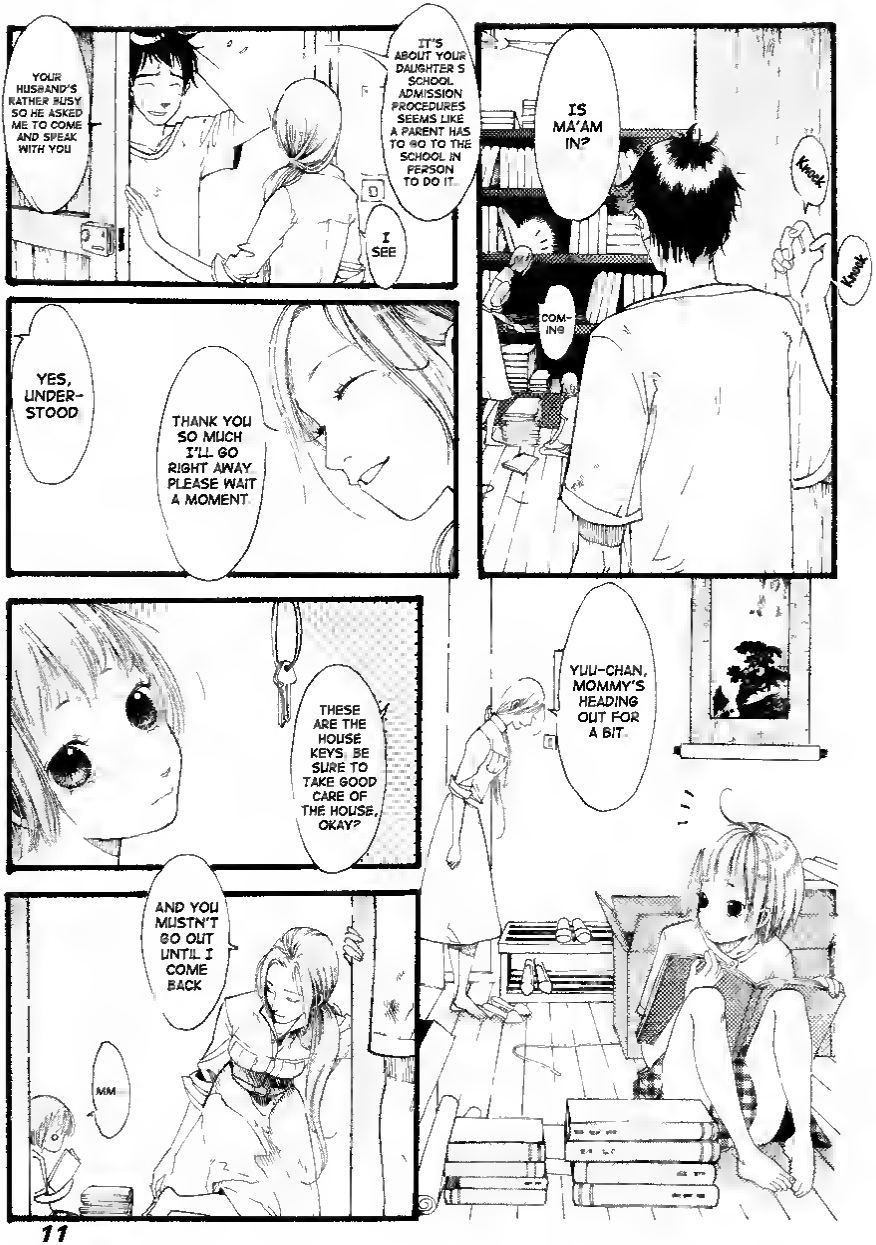
CAN I GET DOWN FROM HERE? I WANT TO WALK AROUND
YOU MUSTN'T LEAVE THE TRUCK
ONE MOMENT PLEASE
SURE
MOM
YOUR DAUGHTER? YUU-CHAN, WAS IT?
AH!
SIT TIGHT, AND DON'T BE A BOTHER TO ANYONE
OKAAY!
BE A GOOD GIRL UNTIL MOMMY FINISHES PUTTING EVERYTHING AWAY, OKAY?


DAD AND MUM ARE RESEARCHERS OF ANCIENT ARCHITECTURE.
SO WE KEEP CHANGING HOUSES AND MOVING FROM TOWN TO TOWN WHENEVER THEY HEAR ABOUT THERE BEING ANCIENT ARCHITECTURE...
HERE!

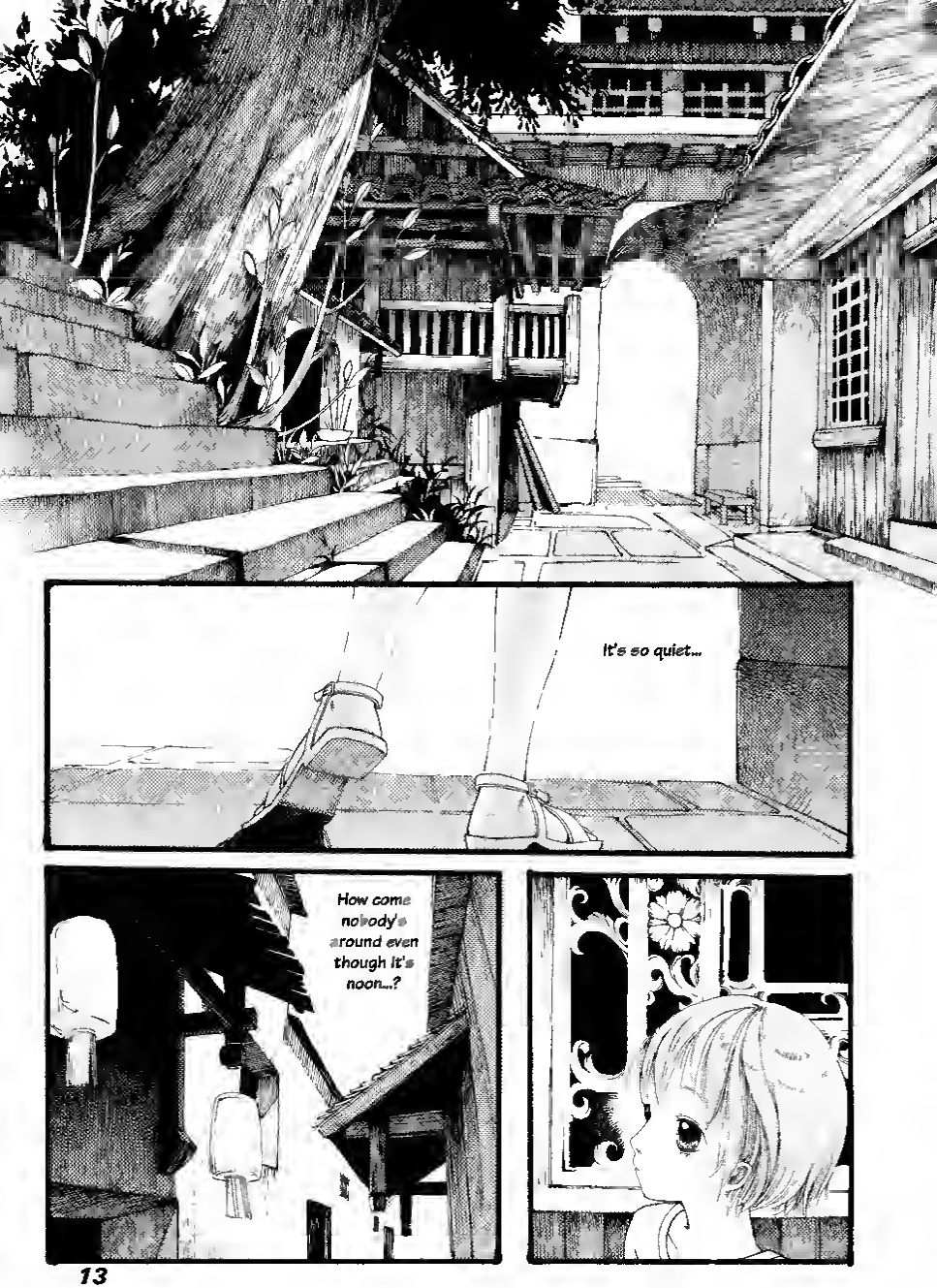

MM...
WHO'S THAT ?! A NEIGHBOUR...?
Z
Z

HUU
!
YUU-CHAN, YOU CAN COME DOWN NOW
O... OKAY!
WATCH YOUR FOOT-ING

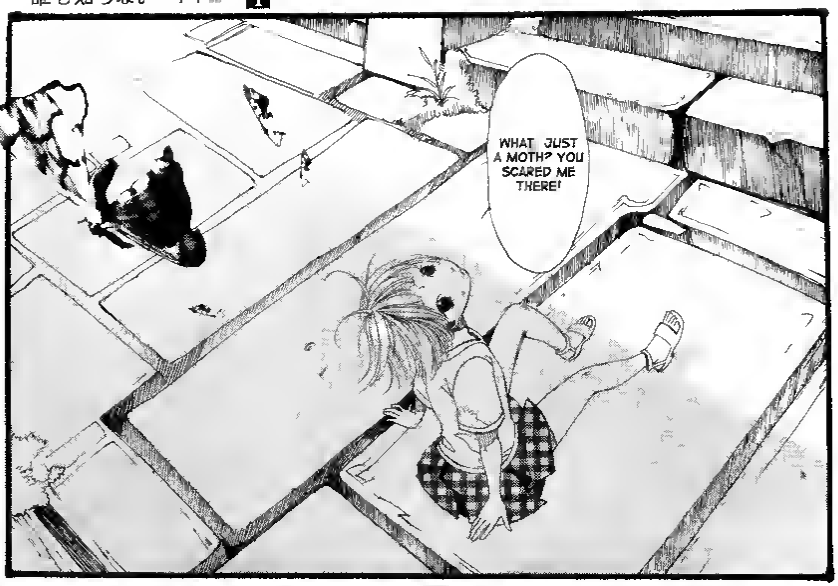
IS IT HEAVY?
NOPE
The person just now... isn't here anymore...
MOM, WHO ARE OUR NEIGHBOURS?
YOU SAW THEM? DID YOU SAY HI?
NO.
THEY'RE UNCLE CHUN AND HIS SON. DON'T FORGET TO GREET THEM THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE THEM
OKAY

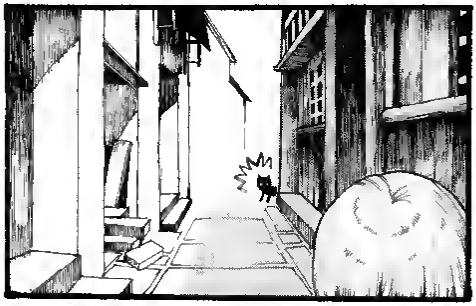

YOUR HUSBAND'S RATHER BUSY SO HE ASKED ME TO COME AND SPEAK WITH YOU
IT'S ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER'S SCHOOL ADMISSION PROCEDURES SEEMS LIKE A PARENT HAS TO GO TO THE SCHOOL IN PERSON TO DO IT.
I SEE
IS MA'AM IN?
Knock
Knock
COM-ING
YES, UNDER-STOOD
THANK YOU SO MUCH I'LL GO RIGHT AWAY PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT
THESE ARE THE HOUSE KEYS. BE SURE TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE HOUSE, OKAY?
YUU-CHAN, MOMMY'S HEADING OUT FOR A BIT.
AND YOU MUSTN'T GO OUT UNTIL I COME BACK
MM

It's not like I said "okay"...
So it's okay if I slip out for a little, right...?


It's so quiet...
How come nobody's around even though it's noon...?

I wonder if anyone lives here...
Would anybody live here?
What old houses.
Are these what Dad calls "Ming and Qing architecture"?
KYA!

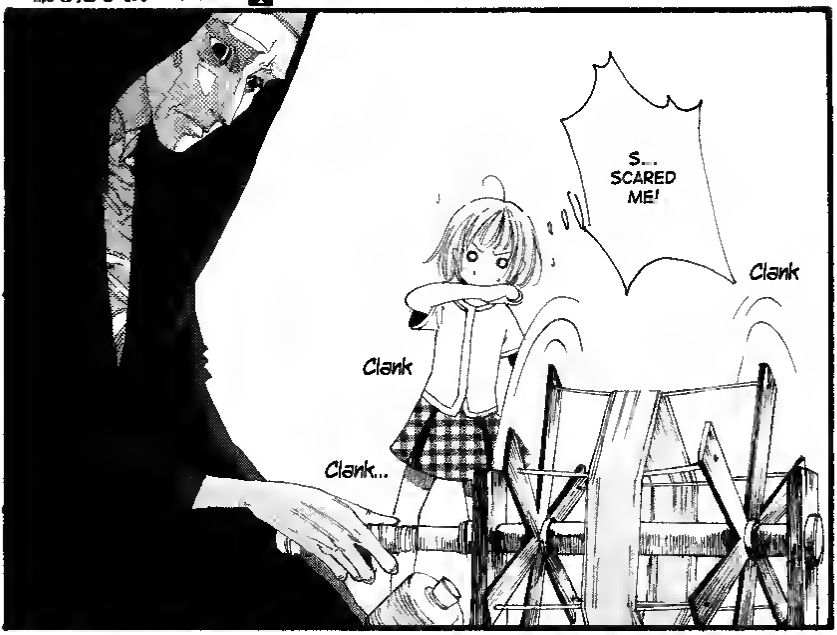

WHAT JUST A MOTH? YOU SCARED ME THERE!

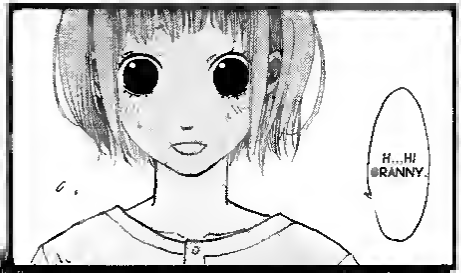


WAIT!

Mew
Pat
Pat

MEOW-?
MEOW-?
MEOW-?
IT'S IT'S SO FAST
!
Eh...?!
ME-


S... SCARED ME!
Clank
Clank
Clank...


H...HI @RANNY.

What are you looking for, child?
A KITTEN... HAS @RANNY SEEN IT?

E...
How old are you, child?
EH?!
?
AH?
Come, little girl.
I'M NINE...

.....
Nine years old? So nice...
Rustle
Rustle
Who's child is this?
Rustle
Let Granny see you.
They're all grannies...

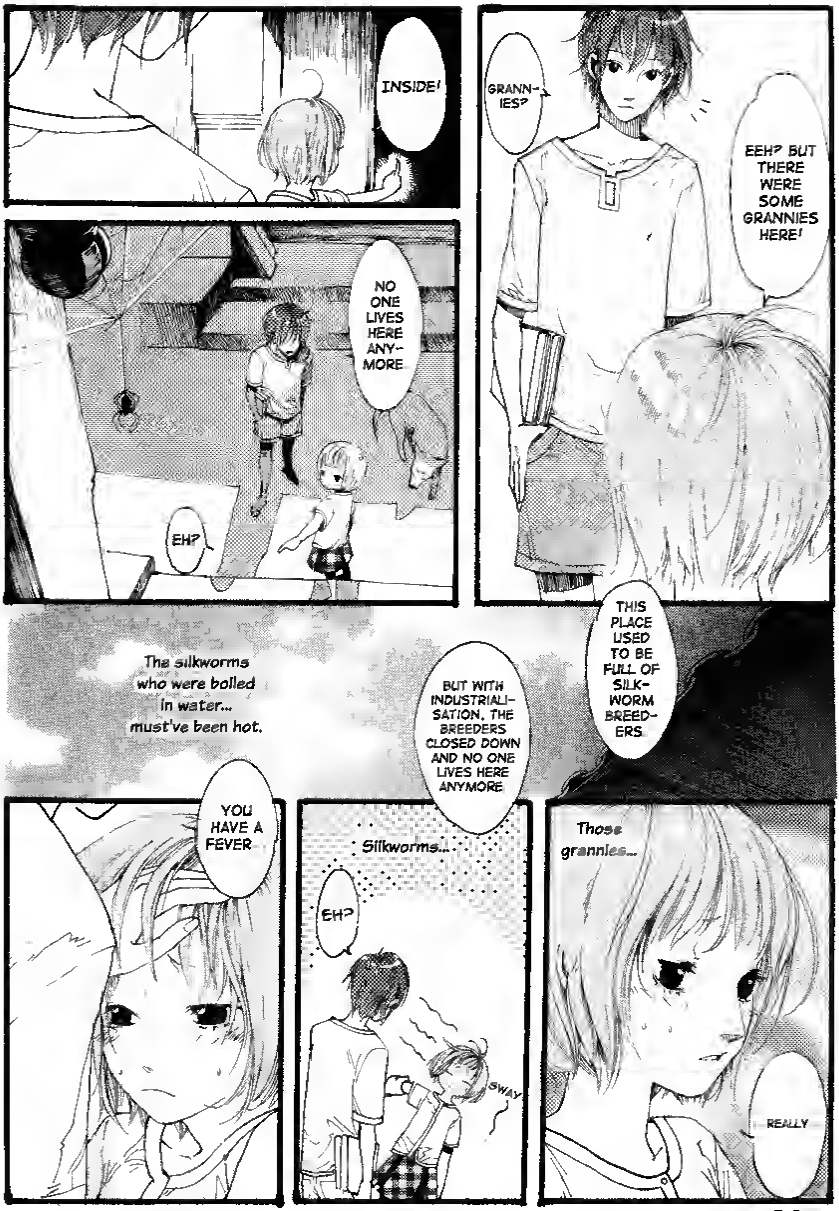
How strange...
Rustle
Rustle
Rustle
Rustle
Do you want some candy?
Even though the sun can't get here... and it's such a dark place...
NO THANK YOU
Why do the grannies seem fine...?
Rustle
Even though it's so hot?
GRANNY ...

UM... AREN'T YOU HOT?
...
...
AHHHH!
AHHHHH!

HOT!
AHH!
I-IT'S HOT!
HOT!!
SOME-ONE!!
SO HOT!
IT BURNS!! HELP!!
AAAHHHH!
It's hot...
Hot...
AHH!

YUU-CHAN?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

YOUR MOM'S LOOKING FOR YOU
CHIN... CHIN-ONII-CHAN?
BUT YOU SURE ARE BRAVE
WANDERING INTO SUCH AN EMPTY PLACE LIKE THIS...


INSIDE!
GRANN-IES?
EEH? BUT THERE WERE SOME GRANNIES HERE!
NO ONE LIVES HERE ANY-MORE
EH?
THIS PLACE USED TO BE FULL OF SILK-WORM BREED-ERS
BUT WITH INDUSTRIALI-SATION, THE BREEDERS CLOSED DOWN AND NO ONE LIVES HERE ANYMORE
The silkworms who were boiled in water... must've been hot.
YOU HAVE A FEVER
Silkworms...
EH?
SWAY
Those grannies...
REALLY

BUT WHY DOES ONII-SAN KNOW MY NAME?
BECAUSE YOUR MUM KEPT CALLING YOUR NAME OUT WHILE SHE WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
WHICH "YU" CHARACTER IS IT?
IT'S THE "YU" IN "YU WEN" LANGUAGE IT'S NOT PRETTY AT ALL. I DON'T REALLY LIKE IT
THAT'S NOT TRUE. IT'S A WONDERFUL NAME
DON'T COME HERE ANYMORE
SORRY.
REALLY?
THE POWERS OF LANGUAGE ARE FAR GREATER THAN YOU IMAGINE THEM TO BE

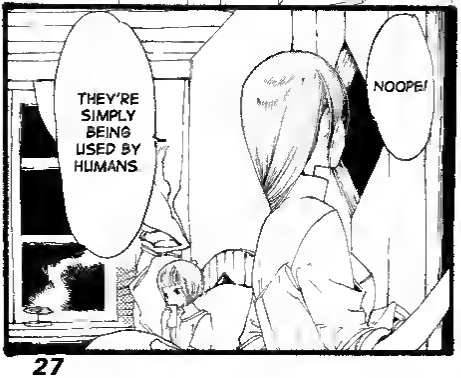
I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT IT SOUNDS AMAZING
HM... WELL, IT'S MOST IMPORTANT FOR YOU
NOT TO RUN AROUND FROM NOW ON.
OKAY.
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
DOES YOUR HEAD STILL HURT?
I'M HOT.

Bitter...
DRINK IT!

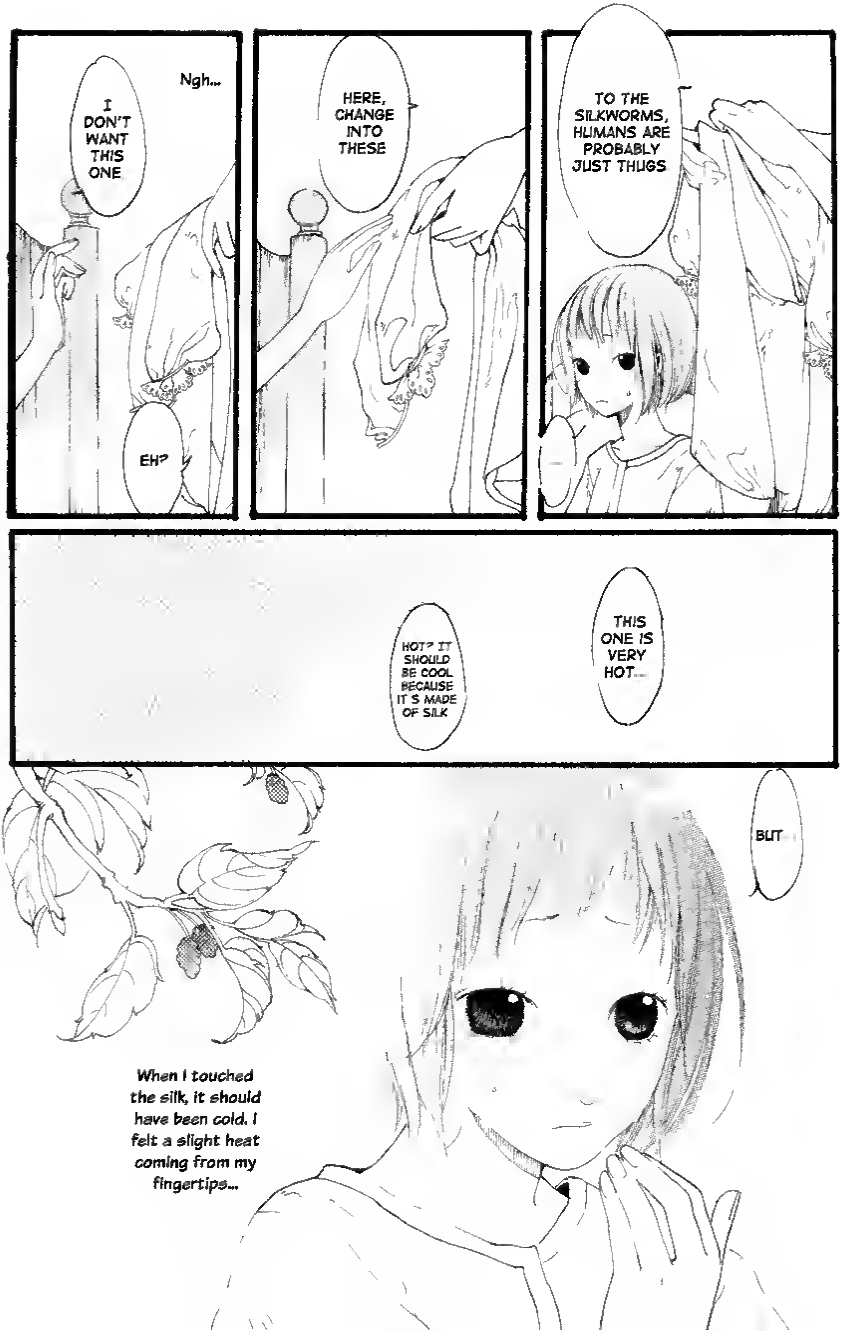
OF COURSE YOU'RE HOT! A FEVER OF 38.5? YOU'RE GOING TO GET A GOOD SCOLDING FROM DAD!
I TURN MY BACK FOR A SECOND, AND YOU'RE OUT MAKING MISCHIEF! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW LONG I'VE LOOKED FOR YOU?

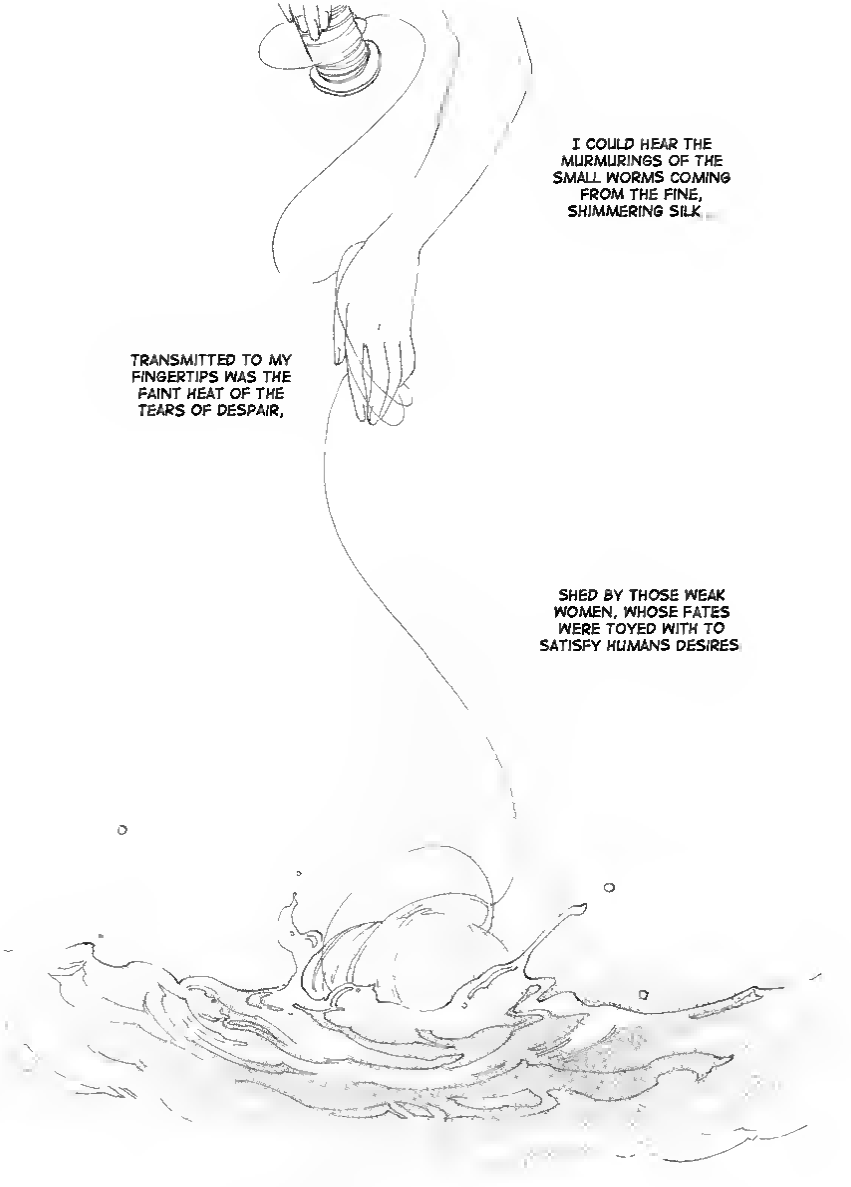
OKAY
CHANGE INTO YOUR PAJAMAS WHEN YOU'RE DONE

MOM,


THEY'RE SIMPLY BEING USED BY HUMANS
NOOPE!

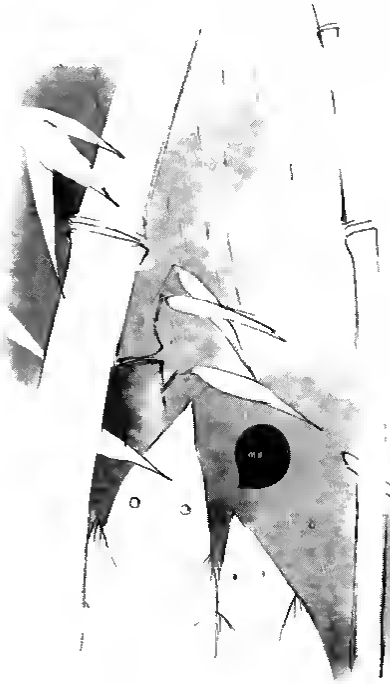
DO SILK-WORMS MAKE SILK BECAUSE THEY WANT TO MAKE CLOTHES FOR US?


Ngh...
I DON'T WANT THIS ONE
EH?
HERE, CHANGE INTO THESE
TO THE SILKWORMS, HUMANS ARE PROBABLY JUST THUGS
THIS ONE IS VERY HOT...
HOT? IT SHOULD BE COOL BECAUSE IT'S MADE OF SILK
BUT
When I touched the silk, it should have been cold. I felt a slight heat coming from my fingertips...


I COULD HEAR THE MURMURINGS OF THE SMALL WORMS COMING FROM THE FINE, SHIMMERING SILK.
TRANSMITTED TO MY FINGERTIPS WAS THE FAINT HEAT OF THE TEARS OF DESPAIR,
SHED BY THOSE WEAK WOMEN, WHOSE FATES WERE TOYED WITH TO SATISFY HUMANS DESIRES

麟趾町物語（りんしちょうものがたり）

I was six when we moved to to the ancient town of Linzhi, due to my parents' job to repair ancient architecture. During that one year in that town, everything that happened didn't seem mysterious, and I spent my days in a peculiar state where there seemed to be no boundary between reality and dreams.



At that youthful age, I was deeply fascinated by the repair of ancient architecture, and I would always be seated next to my parents, watching them work. That's why I didn't feel scared, except for the one and only time when I was freaked out by a stone plaque and a statue of Confucius from the Ming Dynasty that was under an ancient banyan tree. I remember I would always burst out wailing, unable to look at them directly.

There is a lot of bamboo inside the courtyards of ancient buildings, and when the sun shines on the bamboo, it would gleam like jade. Once, I felt someone or something staring at me from the bamboo forest behind me. But I don't know who or what it was. And on another day, when I sensed the same feeling again, I looked back without thinking, and I saw the culprits.

They were two teensy, tiny bamboo shoots– bamboo shoots, whose pure white heads were just a little bit crooked.

And then I picked them and had spring bamboo shoot stew...

It was delicious...

...Bamboo shoots, I'm sorry for eating you >_<